

Announcements from Assessment & Accountability – Week of March 3, 2014

There are **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS** below regarding: **1)** Last Chance to participate in online pilots/field tests this year; **2)** Grant Applications Now Open for Principal/Assistant Principal Training Programs to Conduct Educator Evaluations; **3)** FAME Project Now Accepting New Coach Applications; and, **4)** Field Test of the *Michigan Arts Education Program Review Tool* – Registration Open Now

1) Provide Your Students a Chance to Experience Michigan's New Online Tests Before 2014-15 -- As You and They Help Define the Future of Michigan Assessment!

Participation in the Michigan Statewide Assessment pilot and field test opportunities will benefit each school and district involved. It is a hands-on opportunity to be involved in the creation of a system that will provide data and measurement information necessary to support career, college and community readiness for all students. Also, if your district is not already meeting the 20% participation (Requirement 4) for the 22i Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant (TRIG), participating in online pilot and field tests could help you qualify.

What You Need to Know:

- The online pilots/field tests provide important opportunities for school districts to experience the types of items that have been written to Michigan-approved content standards.
- They provide direct feedback to the Michigan Department of Education about the items and systems for online testing.
- Student-level and aggregate data from online pilots/field tests will NOT be reported nor included in statewide accountability.
- When online tests become operational in 2014-15, they will provide **ALL** schools in Michigan with student-level data which can be used for educational purposes and as **one measure** of student growth for local accountability and evaluation systems.

Additional Benefits of this New Online Assessment System will Include:

- Faster reporting of results to educators, students, and parents than paper/pencil testing!
- No need to receive, sort, secure, distribute, collect, prepare and ship student test booklets and answer documents!
- Support for local evaluation and accountability systems through multiple measures of student growth and achievement!
- Alignment with Michigan's state standards in all content areas!
- Instructionally relevant exemplar lesson plans, sample items, and other resources specifically designed to support the formative assessment process!

Today and tomorrow (March 6-7), will be your last opportunity this school year to join the growing list of schools who are providing students and staff members an opportunity to experience the new assessments before they become operational.

For information about online pilot and field test opportunities that are still available, contact baa@michigan.gov.

2) Principal/Assistant Principal Training Programs for Conducting Educator Evaluations Grant Application – Now Open. Deadline to apply is March 30, 2014.

Applications are now available in the Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+) for the Principal/Assistant Principal Training Programs for Conducting Educator Evaluations competitive grant opportunity. MEGS+ level 5 authorized users are encouraged to submit applications for the principals and assistant principals in their districts

that have completed or plan to complete approved training programs on conducting educator evaluations. Awardees can receive up to \$350.

For more information, please click [Grant Application Memo](#) which also can be found on the What's New on the Assessment Educator Evaluation web page along with other grant resources at: www.mi.gov/educatorevaluations.

If you have questions regarding MEGS+ or the application process, please contact Matt Gleason at: gleasonm@michigan.gov or 517-373-6731. For questions related to the four MCEE recommended observation tools and training programs, please contact Sam Sinicropi at: sinicropis@michigan.gov or 517-241-0439.

3) FAME Project Now Accepting New Coach Applications – Deadline is Friday, April 25, 2014

The Formative Assessment for Michigan Educators (FAME) project is entering its 7th year and is seeking interested educators who would like to lead a learning team of teachers to explore, implement, and reflect on formative assessment practices in their classrooms. FAME coaches are not expected to be the local expert on formative assessment, rather FAME coaches are learners along with their learning team.

More information on the FAME project and access to the 2014-15 New FAME Coach Application is available on the BAA Formative Assessment Process page www.michigan.gov/formativeassessment. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 25, 2014. If you have questions regarding FAME, please contact Kimberly Young, MDE/BAA at youngk1@michigan.gov or 517.373.0988.

4) Field Test of the *Michigan Arts Education Program Review Tool* – Registration Open Now

Schools are invited to participate in the spring 2014 field test of the *Michigan Arts Education Program Review Tool* created by the Michigan Arts Education Instruction and Assessment (MAEIA) Project. The field test includes two approaches:

- **“Volunteer”** component that is open to all schools in Michigan. Districts may have several schools participate, but each school must register separately. To register, please go to: https://survey.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_4TweX2QBGpczIJ7
 - Registration is open until March 21, 2014.
 - The field test window is March 7 - May 2, 2014. After registering, schools may complete the *Michigan Arts Education Program Review Tool* at any time during this window.
- **“Random Sample”** component that targets a representative sample of schools in Michigan. Selected schools will be contacted by staff of the MAEIA Project to be invited to participate in the random sample component of the field test.

Please visit the link below for more information about the field test.
<http://mi-arts.wikispaces.com/Arts+Education+Program+Review+Tool+Work+Page> or contact Kathy Humphrey, MAEIA PRT Field Test Coordinator at kathyhumphrey42@gmail.com.

Have Other Questions?

For assessment questions, please email BAA@michigan.gov.

For accountability questions, please email MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov.

For phone assistance with assessment or accountability issues, call 877-560-8378 and select the appropriate menu option.